

working with him, when Steve served as the deputy counsel on Indian affairs for the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs under Chairman GEORGE MILLER. Later he became the counsel to the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs of the Natural Resources Committee of the House. Steve returned to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in 1995 to become Chairman MCCAIN's staff director and chief counsel.

His lengthy list of accomplishments represents the kind of man Steve is: hard working and committed to Indian Country. Steve's work on environmental issues in Indian country includes the Clean Water and Clean Air Act amendments, solid waste disposal, leaking underground storage tanks and the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act. His broad range of knowledge was crucial in passing the Self-Determination Act amendments, as well as self-governance legislation, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act.

Steve's work to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, his work with tribal courts and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act show his concern for native Americans and most important, our mutual heritage. The work that has been important to Steve was the work that was important to Indian people across this country. Much of his work, including reorganizing the Bureau of Indian Affairs and amendments to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is not yet complete, but his mark will certainly be on the changes when they do occur.

Steve's work on behalf of Indian people goes back before his time here in Washington. He served as the assistant general counsel for the Gila River community in Arizona and was a staff attorney for the Four Rivers Indian Legal Services Program at Gila River. Now, Steve is going back to Arizona, where I'm sure he's been missed, as we're going to miss him here.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to Steve for the invaluable service he has provided to me as I took over as Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. His wise counsel to both me and my staff has made a difficult job more easy and has helped to make sure that the leadership Senator MCCAIN brought to this committee will continue.

Steve has been an outstanding advocate, leader, and friend to Indian country. On behalf of all of us who have been lucky enough to work him, we thank him, we wish him good luck, and we look forward to working together again.

SALUTE TO THE BIG TEN CHAMPIONS MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today and I want to pay tribute to the University of Minnesota basketball

team, who last night clinched their first Big Ten title in 15 years.

As you know, the Golden Gophers defeated the Michigan Wolverines 55 to 54, in a hard-fought, come-from-behind victory. Down by four with under a minute to play, the Gophers' confidence, determination, and faith led them to victory. This is truly an accomplishment that all Minnesotans can be proud of. Under the leadership of coach Clem Haskins, the Gophers have shot, rebounded, and passed their way into the national spotlight as a team to be taken seriously in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

With the great play of senior guard Bobby Jackson, junior guard Eric Harris, junior forward Sam Jacobson, and senior co-captain centers John Thomas and Trevor Winter, along with the rest of the Big Ten championship team, the Golden Gophers have set a school record 25 victories in a single season, with three regular season games to play. Among the notable accomplishments this team has achieved have been their two victories over Michigan, an overtime victory over Indiana, and a season sweep over our border rival Iowa Hawkeyes. This team has been on a mission all year to gain respect, not only from the Big Ten but also from the Nation, after having all its starters returning from last year from a team that was not invited to play in the NCAA tournament. As you can see, these Golden Gophers took matters into their own hands and earned the qualifying bid from the NCAA by winning the Big Ten title outright.

From the land of 10,000 frozen lakes, this Minnesota Golden Gopher basketball team has provided warmth and excitement to fans statewide in an otherwise very cold and long Minnesota winter. Again, Mr. President, I want to congratulate Clem Haskins and his Big Ten championship team from the University of Minnesota, and wish them all the best in their final regular season games and when they go for it all in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

Mr. FORD. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. GRAMS. I am happy to yield.

Mr. FORD. Does the Senator know where Clem Haskins got his training? Western Kentucky University. He was also a coach at Western Kentucky University. I am tickled to death that he gave such improvement to the great State of Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. So are we.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, February 26, the Federal debt stood at \$5,345,590,198,251.20.

One year ago, February 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,016,711,000,000.

Five years ago, February 26, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,828,590,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, February 26, 1982, the Federal debt stood at

\$1,048,207,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,297,383,198,251.20—during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE NOTICE OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 18

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 1997, to the *Federal Register* for publication.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 27, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 36. Joint resolution approving the Presidential finding that the limitation on obligations imposed by section 518A(a) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997, is having a negative impact on the proper functioning of the population planning program.

The message also stated that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: